

STUDIO THEATRE / UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

THE 2018 FALL FRESHMAN PROJECT PRESENTS

**JOINTSTOCK**

**#METOO**

a play written by 34 students and performed  
to raise awareness for the need for dialogue  
in contemporary society

**DIRECTED BY**

**WALT JONES**

**Colorado State University**

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE

# #METOO IS A MOVEMENT AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT, FOCUSED ON DEMONSTRATING THE WIDESPREAD PREVALENCE OF THEM IN WORLD SOCIETIES.

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Joint Stock performance is a company-researched and interview-based theatre piece, Using “Laramie Project” as a model, the students have gone out into the community—both CSU and Ft. Collins and beyond (students' hometowns)—and from those interviews were scripted and printed out, and assembled as a devised theatre piece.

This exercise in collective creation is built around a topic (prompt) that the students chose. It began in August as the need for gun control, but about two weeks in, the students (34 freshman theatre majors) requested, given the current trends and passion behind it, that we tackle the #MeToo movement.

They've amassed over 150 interviews so far plus interviews they had with their families and friends from their hometowns last week, over Thanksgiving.

Our students used the text of the interviews they've taken and then perform them as characters, using the physicality that the interviewed showed during the interviews. The interviews are anonymous—the names of those interviewed are not used in the performance.

There are several companies that use this technique to devise theatre pieces. One of the first was the British Joint Stock Theatre Company. The Joint Stock Theatre Company was founded in London 1974 by David Hare, Max Stafford-Clark and David Aukin. The director William Gaskill was also an important part of the company. It was primarily a theatre company that produced new plays.

As its title suggests, it was run as a “Joint Stock” company; the capital of the company being formed by the contribution of each member, its profit was to be measured in the success of its productions. Thus, it became cooperatively owned by its members.

Joint Stock created a distinctive style of working with writers using company research to inspire workshops. From these workshops writers such as David Hare, Howard Brenton and Caryl Churchill would garner material to inspire a writing phase before rehearsals began. This methodology is sometimes referred to as The Joint Stock Method. Key productions include Hare's “Fanshen,” Brenton's “Epsom Downs” and Churchill's “Cloud Nine,” and “A Mouthful of Birds.”

Currently, Tectonic Theatre Company (creators of “The Laramie Project” and a dozen other company-devised pieces), and The Civilians, a NYC-based company whose techniques have produced almost 50 collectively created theatre pieces often with music and dance and video and film, in just 10 years. Both of these companies enjoy deep connections to their communities and powerful responses to their work.

## WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY

Abby Allison	Coltin Wilcox
Jackson Braunreiter	Lauren Boesch
Kristina Clark	Tony Carr
TreVonne Coleman	James Fagan
Corbin Crowder	Lili Federico
Clayton Day	Kaleb Hacker
Max Dusseau	Adam Isaacs
Frances Fedeles	Kelby Jakober
Nicole Gardner	Xander Kobrin
Eliot Marshall	Morgan Lessman
Austen Meyers	Dominique Mickelson
Daphne Orenstein	Ryan Stabler
Aaron Porter	Lorna Stephens
Dominika Rubio	Katie Strickland
Justy Smith	Marin Stumpf
Reid Smith	Mitch Wilson
Chris Spreng	

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## SPECIAL THANKS

Dominique Mickelson, Katie Strickland, Lili Federico, Lorna Stephens,  
Abby Allison, and Eliot Marshall

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**WALT JONES (DIRECTOR)** who joined the CSU Theatre program in 2006, is a graduate of The Yale School of Drama. As a teacher of acting and directing, he has served on the faculty at Yale School of Drama, and University of California, San Diego. Mr. Jones has directed twice on Broadway, six plays off-Broadway, including the American premiere of Howard Barker's *No End of Blame* at Manhattan Theatre Club, and over sixty plays in more than twenty regional theatres from Cambridge to Fairbanks and productions in Soviet Russia and in Tokyo. He directed the world premiere productions of plays by Thomas Babe, Lanford Wilson, Naomi Iizuka, José Rivera, Arthur Kopit, Jim Yoshimura, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwrights Sam Shepard and David Mamet, John Pielmeier, Derek Walcott and Christopher Durang. Among the many actors Mr. Jones has directed are Meryl Streep, Roc Dutton, John Turturro, Tony Shaloub, Nathan Lane, Liev Schreiber, Angie Bassett, Christopher Walken, Jason Alexander, Peter Weller, Frances McDormand, Kate Burton, Michael Gross, Lindsay Crouse, Mariel Hemingway, John Goodman, and Tony Award-winning stage actor, Jefferson Mays. Mr. Jones was a staff director at the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference from 1980 until 1990 and directed regularly for the Yale Rep, Arena Stage, and the American Repertory Theatre. He is the author of *The 1940s Radio Hour* and *A 1940s Radio Christmas Carol*, both published by Samuel French, Inc.

FOR FANS OF MONTY PYTHON, ARE YOU BEING SERVED?, GAVIN AND STACEY, AND THE IT CROWD

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BEAN

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**WALT JONES**